

Gloom Will Usher in 1920, For Who Can Cheerily Greet New Year's With Ice Water?

By Roger Batchelder.

SATURDAY started out gloomily enough at Essex Market Court, for not only was it raining as usual, but, also, some enterprising reporter brought in all the morning papers. When the wheels of justice were not grinding, and in some parts of the court even when they were, the attaches and retinue of the grand old temple read the news and became morose and gloomy and wanted to weep. Finally they gathered in the fingerprint room to have a gloom meeting of the famous Essex Market Post, A. O. O. R.

"I have been reading," declared Pete Walker, "that it will rain in Harlem on Christmas, and that New Year's will be cold and fair. I think the weather man got his dates mixed, for who cares what happens on New Year's?"

"It will be a gloomy New Year's anyway, whether it rains or not," sighed Janitor Burns with some feeling. "Can you imagine watching 1920 come over the housetops with a keel of ice water for a greeting?"

Warrant Officer Murphy was then called. He is the original weather prophet of the court. Whenever the Post wished to have a convention in the past it would ask for a forecast. If the prophecy was "Fair and cool"

everybody would get soaked. And if it promised rain, all would take their umbrellas and raincoats and forget to bring them home, which would add much zest to the affair, particularly when they failed to show up with Friend Wife's pet bargain-sale water-proof awning. After a time, the modus operandi of operation, as Mayor Hylan might put it, changed and the Post would carry raincoats when the sun was due to shine, and would leave them home for the children to play circus tent with upon the prediction of rain. It worked like a Liberty motor, and Mr. Murphy soon gained no little repute as a weather prophet. Mr. Murphy declared he would come upstairs in a moment and the gloom lifted somewhat until Jerry Creedon, the official announcer, recalled that there would be no coal after Jan. 1, and that every one would freeze or something.

"Well, here is the insolence of the problem," volunteered Joe Levy, the Duke of Essex Street, who has a practical mind. "They can never shut off the coal in the grand old temple of justice."

"Why can't they, if there isn't any coal?" asked Clerk Rice skeptically. "Because Mr. Nixon of the 'No Coal for New York Club' says that court houses and police stations and drug stores and insane asylums and jails will have plenty of coal," said the Duke, triumphantly pointing to General Order No. 1832 of the weekly coal report.

"Well, that won't keep my fire in the Harlem warm," brooded Pete Walker.

"But the point is this," exclaimed the Duke. "We will all move into the court. We can set up cots in the court, use the bathtub and shower-baths downstairs, which nobody ever uses now (because who wants to take a bath in court? I don't, anyway), and we can get Janitor Burns to shovel all night in the daytime everybody can go to my law office."

which I will rent cheap. Then, as Silver Dollar Smith used to say in the good old days, 'Why worry? To-morrow may never show up!'"

"I will take the reservations," declared Bill Belms, peerless finger-printer. "I need the fingerprint room for headquarters, but everything else is open."

"I want the court room," shouted the Duke. "Save me the summons room," shouted Complaint Clerk Kunsell. "Give me four warm cells in the downstairs pen," demanded Pete Walker, "with cooking privileges, on the radiator."

Just then Mr. Murphy appeared. "How about the weather prediction?" demanded the Post en masse. "It will be a very rainy Christmas and fair on New Year's," came the quick answer. "And the winter will be the coldest in many years."

"Hooray, it will be fair on Christmas," piped up Joe, the official boot-black.

"And we won't need to move here for the winter," said Bill Belms.

"Gee whiz," ejaculated the Duke, "and after I had reserved the biggest room in the place! Luck is not among us."

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Here's another Theodore, with a lot of the old Colonel about him, and plenty of Rooseveltian personality of his own. How far will he go? Wrote a buck private, "there isn't a man in this outfit who would not start to take a message to Berlin tonight, if he asked him." George Palmer Putnam's close-up People's article brings you face to face with

"Young Teddy"

A mesh bag, a jacket of chain armor, a lovable ex-Apache, a crooked lawyer, and the Man and the Girl—these are the interesting ingredients of "The Final Chuckle," one of the best of William Hamilton Osborne's Sergeant Laroque stories. You can use Dr. Frank Crane's "Ten Commandments of Success" as a dependable guide in these stormy days. And among other things there's a jim-dandy advertising story ("The Four-Flusher") in addition to Henry Payson Dowst's "What Lies Behind the Advertisement," of interest to every commercial freshman, and senior as well for that matter. Do you believe in self-determination for married men? Then you'll cheer when you read Christine Parmenter's "Celia, the Efficient." Your magazine for December is full of the things that you most want its editors to get for you.

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